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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/909,001	07/18/2001	Claudia Chiesa	4543	8747

22896 7590 06/19/2003

MILA KASAN, PATENT DEPT.
APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS
850 LINCOLN CENTRE DRIVE
FOSTER CITY, CA 94404

EXAMINER

HORLICK, KENNETH R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1637

9

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/909,001

Applicant(s)

CHIESA ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth R Horlick

Art Unit

1637

-- The MAILING DATE of this c mmunication appears on the c ver sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 (2 pages) 6) ☐ Other: .

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. It is suggested that "using a competitor oligo and strand displacement" be added to the current title.
2. Claim 20 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. While this claim depends from claim 16 and does not further limit that claim, it would appear that dependency on claim 14 is intended. Clarification is required.
3. Claims 1-3 and 6-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. A key feature of the disclosed invention, as set forth in the preamble of independent claims 1, 2, and 25 is "isolating one strand of a double-stranded target nucleic acid". However, no such isolation occurs in the embodiments of claims 1 and 2 calling for "isolating the heteroduplex", nor in claim 25 in the last step of "capturing the competitor oligo: first strand hybrid". In other words, it is submitted that the further limitation of claim 4, which adds steps of "dissociating the heteroduplex and isolating the first strand" is essential subject matter in understanding the method of claims 1 and 2 insofar as the heteroduplex embodiment is concerned.

Art Unit: 1637

Similarly, it is submitted that such steps are required in claim 25 in order to understand it to be a method of "isolating one strand of a double-stranded target nucleic acid".

4. Claims 4 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-3 and 6-25 are free of the prior art, but are rejected for other reasons. No claims are allowable. While the prior art teaches various methods involving a "competitor oligo" and strand displacement of a duplex target nucleic acid, said methods comprise steps of separating and detecting heteroduplexes or released single strands, as opposed to isolation of one of the strands. As is understood in the art, isolating a nucleic acid strand is distinguishable from merely separating said strand from other reaction components and detecting it; for example, isolation provides such a strand in a purified form useful as a starting material in various applications.


5. The closest prior art, now made of record, includes: Buchardt et al. (US 6,357,163 and WO 92/20703), Fuchs et al. (WO 97/12995), Stanton, Jr. (US 6,475,736), Frank-Kamenetskii et al. (US 6,265,166), Diamond et al. (US 4,766,062), Williams et al. (US 4,766,064), Eadie et al. (US 5,445,933), Reddy et al. (US 5,648,213), Collins et al. (US 4,752,566), Fritsch et al. (US 4,725,536), Collins et al. (US 4,818,680), and Fritsch et al. (US 5,268,266).

Art Unit: 1637

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth R Horlick whose telephone number is 703-308-3905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 703-308-1119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4242 for regular communications and 703-308-0294 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.


Kenneth R Horlick
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1637

June 5, 2003